

“The Amazing Gift of Communing with Christ”

“Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

“He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a major city. He never traveled more than two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

“While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

“Twenty long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.” (*James Allan Francis, The Real Jesus and Other Sermons*)

“Righteousness and love, law and grace, life and death, as well as time and eternity all intersect at the cross; displaying a Divine wisdom that staggers the imagination and leads the humble heart to bow in thankful adoration. To understand the cross of Christ is to understand the heart of God toward a fallen world He wants to save.” (*A. W. Tozer, The Divine Conquest*)

Though He is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God in heaven attended by great beings of power and hosts of angels, He takes a loving and profound interest every week when His disciples come together at His Table to commune. 1990 years later, we are still remembering Him every week in a memorial service, and we will continue to do it until His return. 1Cor. 11:26 - “*For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*”

And now, the very people whose sins sent the Savior to the cross are invited to sit down at the Table with Him. *“But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom”* (Matt. 26:29). Does it occur to you that as we eat the Supper, the Lord is at the Table with us? *“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them”* (Matt. 18:20).

We should remember that this invitation to sit at a Table with the Lord that memorializes a crucifixion came from the One who was sent to the cross by our sins.

We should remember that God the Father and God the Son love us so much that They want us to sit at this Table.

We should remember with Whom we are sitting at the Table while we are at the Table. Have we cleansed ourselves, hearts and hands, soul and spirit, before sitting down at the Table?

We should remember the kind of conversation that should take place at this Table; conversations that remain our focus as we eat; things like the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus, like the exchange of His innocence for our sins, like the fact that He is coming again. Do these thoughts occupy the spiritual conversation in our minds as we eat?

We should remember that our conduct at the Table as the feast begins, while it is under way, and as it ends, must glorify and honor the One who invited us to sit at His Table.

“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins’” (Matt. 26:26-28).

Jesus arranged and ordered the feast. Jesus invited the disciples to share in the feast. Jesus gave meaning to and paid for that feast with His body and His blood.

Jesus arranged and ordered this feast. Jesus invited us to share in the feast today. Jesus paid for this feast with His body and His blood.

Therefore, we should remember that we do not have the RIGHT to sit at the Lord’s Table, and we are not entitled to eat the Lord’s Supper. We have been PRIVILEGED with an INVITATION to commune with the Lord. Remember that every time you sit down at His Memorial Feast. (*prb*)